



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,812	10/11/2005	Guido F. Smoorenburg	22409-00281	3611
30678 7590 03/23/2009 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP 1875 EYE STREET, N.W. SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20006				
EXAMINER				
HOLMES, REX R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3762				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/23/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,812

Applicant(s)

SMOORENBURG, GUIDO F.

Examiner

REX HOLMES

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 20-24, 27-34 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faltys et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,157,861 hereinafter "Faltys") in view of Cochlear Limited (PCT Pub. WO 00/52963).
3. Regarding claims 1-4, 20-22 and 38, Faltys discloses a method for fitting a cochlear implant with multiple channels that includes establishing an initial current using action potentials, and then adjusting the levels to conform to the comfort levels of the patient (e.g. Abstract, Figs. 3A-3B, Cols. 3-4). Faltys further discloses that the stimulator can be connected to a clinicians computer for direct interface between the clinician and the speech processor (e.g. Col. 7, 48-65; Col. 9, line 65 to Col. 10, line 7).
4. Regarding claims 7-14 and 27-34, Faltys discloses adjusting the initial parameters to conform to patient comfort levels by adding or subtracting current levels, thereby effectively shifting tilting or curving the levels of the parameters (e.g. Col. 13, lines 32 to Col. 14 line 53).
5. Regarding claim 23-24, Faltys discloses that the initial current level is established based on the measured action potentials (e.g. Col. 11, ll. 38-48).

6. Regarding claims 1-4, 7-14, 20-24, 27-34 and 38, Faltys discloses the claimed invention but fails to disclose obtaining a response for a plurality of channels and adjust the current level setting for a plurality of channels. However, Cochlear Limited discloses a method for fitting a cochlear implant with multiple channels that includes applying stimulation, obtaining a response for a plurality of channels, and then adjusting the parameters of the plurality of channels in order to optimize, automate and accurately set the implant without the need for patient feedback (e.g. Page 1, line 9 to Page 3, line 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the individual adjustment system as taught by Faltys, with the combined sensing and adjusting of the parameters for a plurality of channels as taught by Cochlear Limited, since such a modification would provide the predictable results of optimizing, automating and accurately setting the implant parameters without the need for patient feedback.

7. Regarding claims 15-19 and 35-37, Faltys in view of Cochlear Limited disclose that it uses known signals to test and fit the cochlear input, but fails to explicitly state that the signals are live speech, an artificial signal or a recorded signal. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Faltys, with a live speech signal, an artificial signal or a recorded signal since it was known in the art that any of a number of signals can be used to create a stimulation signal to produce a response. A live speech signal, artificial signal or a recorded signal all known in the art and using them would provide the predictable result of creating an action potential to monitor and be analyzed.

Regarding claims 5-6 and 25-26, Faltys in view of Cochlear Limited disclose the claimed invention including that the current levels are set to a default level, but fails to explicitly state that the default levels were based on values that were researched and worked for a vast majority of recipients. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the initial current level as taught by Faltys, with an initial current level that was analyzed from a vast majority of people since it was known in the art that the default level should be one that works as a base line for a vast majority of people and using one that works as a base line for a vast majority of people would provide the predictable result of allowing the clinician to quickly fit a cochlear implant as the values would be approximately the right value from the start.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

Art Unit: 3762

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REX HOLMES whose telephone number is (571)272-8827. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571-272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3762

/George R Evanisko/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3762

